

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2009

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS J T THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR), R ANGEL,
MRS A THROSSELL AND M J PORTER (EX-OFFICIO)
MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

499. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.38pm.

500. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were RECEIVED from Cllrs Mulcuck and Stone. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book ref. 016 and ACCEPTED AND APPROVED.

501. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllrs Baker and Mrs Thwaites declared a personal interest in item 503 (c) Report of Site Meeting with the Bowls Club as they are members of the Bowls Club.

502. FINANCE

(a) Financial Analysis

READ and **NOTED**.

(b) Quotations for MUGA Resurfacing

The following quotations to resurface the MUGA were **READ**:-

- (i) £17,925.00
- (ii) £17,480.00 - £17,980.00
- (iii) £17,680.00

RESOLVED to ask the contractor, who initially installed the surface and provided quote (i) - Trevor May, if he is able to make a reduction in the cost.

(c) Multi-Sports Hire Fees

RESOLVED to increase all hire rates by 50 pence per hour and the cost of electricity tokens by 40 pence to £1.50 per token.



The Chairman asked members to consider an additional item regarding finances.

RESOLVED to accede to this request:-

(d) Maintenance of the Parish's Unadopted Street Lights

It was NOTED that the current maintenance contract for the street lights expires this year and that TMBC can take over this maintenance. Following an initial inspection and test for £32.00 and bulb change at £163.00, the fee will be £10.00 per month.

RESOLVED to accept the terms of the new maintenance contract with TMBC.

503. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING**

(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 234, Item 462(a)]

It was NOTED that Kaddy-Lee Preston from BBC South East had been asked to open the quarry but there would be an appearance fee of £400.00 - £500.00.

RESOLVED as the Council did not have money in the budget to pay for a personality to open the quarry the Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling should be asked to perform the ceremony and local press and media asked to cover/publicise the event.

(b) Provision for Youth [Page 234, Item 462(b)]

(i) Update on Goal-End/Youth Shelter project

It was **NOTED** that work had commenced on this project but had had to stop as the contractors needed dry conditions before they could continue with cementing and laying Tarmac.

(ii) Adventure trail

It was **NOTED** that installation of this equipment had commenced. It was further NOTED that two members had received negative comments about the location of the adventure trail. Members were reminded that this Committee recommended the location to the full council following advice from contractors, a RoSPA Inspector and the Council's Health and Safety Officer. Planning permission was not required for this installation.

(c) Report of Site Meeting at re football near Bowls Club [Page 236, Item 467]

The Chairman REPORTED that he and Cllr Stone had attended a site meeting with representatives from the Bowls Club to discuss their concerns about football being played close to the bowls club fence.

RESOLVED to see if the problem is alleviated when the new goal end is installed and review the situation again then.

504. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

Comments from Mr Piper (DATs member) about the allotment path and provision of palisade were READ. It was NOTED that Mr Hawksworth, Chairman of DATs had commented that these were Mr Pipers personal comments not those of DATs.

RESOLVED to remove the provision of palisade fencing from the five year plan but to leave the path on and look at further solutions for it.

505. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION**

John Darby : Request for use of football pitch next season
RESOLVED NOT TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST AS THE PITCH IN QUESTION IS ALREADY USED UP TO THREE TIMES PER WEEK BY ADULT TEAMS AND A FURTHER USE MAY RESULT IN DAMAGE.

Bob Bounds, Editor KM : KM's 150th Anniversary – plant a tree
RESOLVED TO MAKE A REQUEST FOR A COMMEMORATIVE TREE, POSSIBLY AN OAK, TO BE PLACED IN THE QUARRY NEAR THE ENTRANCE, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE QUARRY WORKING PARTY.

Borough Cllr David Thornewell : Seat on footpath MR100
 A request to have the seat on MR100 repaired, was READ. It was NOTED that this Committee had previously discussed removing this broken seat as it would be expensive to repair and that East Malling Research Station have no objection to it being removed.
RSOLVED TO REPLY TO BOROUGH CLLR THORNEWELL ADVISING THAT THIS COUNCIL WILL REMOVE THE SEAT.

Mrs Jill Williams : Dog Litter Refuse Bin – Entrance Scott Close
RESOLVED TO SUPPORT MRS WILLIAMS REQUEST THAT THE DOG LITTER BIN BE MOVED AND SUGGEST A MORE SUITABLE LOCATION SUCH AS THE ENTRANCE TO THE TRACK LEADING TO THE QUARRY. ALSO TO REQUEST THAT ALL DOG LITTER BINS IN THE VILLAGE ARE EMPTIED MORE REGULARLY AND THAT THIS COUNCIL IS CONSULTED BEFORE BINS ARE ERECTED IN FUTURE.

The Chairman asked for an additional item of date sensitive correspondence to be considered. Members acceded to this request:-

Cobdown Sports & Social Club : Business Rates Relief
 A letter was circulated and **READ** and it was **NOTED** that TMBC are to withdraw the discretionary rate relief and this will affect the clubs financial situation and they are asking for a member of this Council to

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speak on their behalf at a meeting. It was further **NOTED** that this council does not receive any discretionary rate relief.

RESOLVED TO REPLY STATING THAT WHILST THIS COUNCIL WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE THE CLUB CLOSE, NO-ONE IS AVAILABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING ON THEIR BEHALF.

506. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Chairman will **READ** the following items of correspondence and report back on any items of interest:

TMBC : Dog Control Orders

The Kent County Playing Fields Assoc. : Newsletter January 2009

507. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Chairman
2nd March 2009